

Polk County Courthouse  
5th and Court Sts., in Courthouse Square  
Des Moines  
Polk County  
Iowa

HABS No. IA-93

HABS,  
IOWA.  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

STATE IOWA	COUNTY POLK	TOWN OR VICINITY DES MOINES
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) POLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE		HABS NO. IA-93
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Sth and Court Sts., in Courthouse Square.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1902-07	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Proudfoot and Bird, architects	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The Polk County Courthouse is a good example in Iowa of the Classical Revival style.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Classical Revival		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Light grayish-tan limestone ashlar. The lower two stories are rusticated.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) The central gallery plan is composed of a four story seventeen-bay front and rear and eleven bay sides.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE This substantial limestone structure is dominated by a central tower which surmounts a roofed courtyard surrounded by galleries and graced with impressive stairways which express the gravity of the bureaucratic and judicial activities that take place in the offices and courtrooms.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE County courthouse		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Shank, Wesley I., <u>The Iowa Catalog: Historic American Buildings Survey</u> , The University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, 1979.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Kent R. Newell Historic American Buildings Survey		DATE 4/8/80